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October 16, 1957

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT
October 15, 1957, 11 AM

Others present:

Dr. I. I. Rabi
Dr. L. V. Berkner
Dr. H. A. Bethe
Dr. D. W. Bronk
Dr. J. B. Fisk
Dr. C. P. Haskins
Dr. A. G. Hill
Dr. J. R. Killian, Jr.
Dr. E. H. Land
Dr. H. Scoville, Jr.
Dr. A. T. Waterman
Dr. J. B. Wiesner
Dr. J. R. Zacharias
Dr. D. Z. Beckler
General Cutler
General Goodpaster



The President said he had wanted to have the group in to learn their state of mind and to see what ideas and proposals they might have that they would like to advance. He said he had been reflecting very earnestly on the question of how all of the many scientific activities throughout the government, or supported by the government, could be best supported. He referred to certain paragraphs in the National Science Foundation brochure on basic research. He said it is all well and good to accept the importance of basic research, but government officials have some responsibility to assure that money provided is actually used for research, and not diverted to other ends. However, to do so might result in intrusion into university activity. He asked whether the group really thought that American science is being out-distanced, and asked for an expression of the state of mind of the members.

Dr. Rabi said that the problem the President had mentioned, of management of research in government, is of course of central concern to his

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